

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 IO-03 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2647

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22700

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CB. FR

SUBJECT: KHMER CHARGE IN PARIS, HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG'S
VIEW

REF: PARIS 22601

1. KHMER CHARGE, HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG, CALLED ON EMBOFF
TO GIVE HIS VERSION OF THE IMBROGLIO OVER KHMER CHARGE
IN PARIS. DOEUNG SAID THAT IT WOULD BE FAVORABLE FROM
HIS PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW TO BE SHIFTED TO NEW YORK AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE; HE WOULD THEREBY IMMEDIATELY HAVE
AMBASSADORIAL PAY AND PRIVILEGES. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT
IT WAS TOO PRECIPITOUS TO MAKE THE CHANGE ON THE EVE OF
THE UNGA AND UNESCO VOTES. IN ADDITION, HE DID NOT
BELIEVE KENG VANNSAK WAS A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT. IT
SEEMED CLEAR THAT VANNSAK HAD WORKED OUT WITH LON NON A
PLAN TO ORGANIZE THE KHMER RESIDENTS IN FRANCE'
PARTICULARLY THE STUDENTS' INTO THEIR POLITICAL PARTY.
THE KHMER RESIDENCE WOULD THEREFORE BE USED FOR
POLITICAL ACTIONS IN FRANCE AND THE GKR RISKED WORSEN-
ING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE GOF WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED
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TO OPPOSE SUCH INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIONS. MANY IN

PHNOM PENH WERE OPPOSED TO THIS VANNSAK/LON NON
POLITICAL MANEUVER AND HENCE OPPOSED THE SHIFT. MFA
OFFICIALS AND PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN PARIS PARTICULARLY
OPPOSED VANNSAK'S BECOMING CHARGE IN FRANCE.

2. DOEUNG SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED IN REACTION OF LONG
BORET, WHO SHOWED HIMSELF AS INDECISIVE. WHILE
INDICATING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM, LONG BORET
CONTINUED TO TRY TO PERSUADE DOEUNG TO LEAVE QUICKLY --
EVEN PROMISING HIM POST OF AMBASSADOR IN JORDAN. DOEUNG
SAID THAT WITH A SIGNED ORDER COMING IN EFFECT FROM THE
PRESIDENT DIRECTING HIM TO STAY, HE WOULD NEED NEW
WRITTEN ORDERS BEFORE HE COULD RELINQUISH HIS POST.

3. DOEUNG SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN TO HIS KNOWLEDGE
ANY FRENCH REACTION TO VANNSAK'S DELIVERING HIS
CURRICULUM VITAE ETC. TO FRENCHCHARGE IN PHNOM PENH.
GOF WAS NOT, OF COURSE, REQUIRED TO EXPRESS ITS VIEW ON
A CHANGE IN CHARGE. DOEUNG SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED
INDIRECT INDICATIONS OF FRENCH VIEWS WHEN HE ACCOMPANIED
LONG BORET FOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK; ONE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF PROTOCOL EXPRESSED SATISFACTION
THAT DOEUNG WOULD REMAIN CHARGE IN PARIS EVEN IF HE
WERE TO BE TEMPORARILY ABSENT AS A MEMBER OF THE UNGA
DELEGATION.

4. DOEUNG NOTED THAT HE HAD ENCOURAGED VANNSAK TO TAKE
RAPID CHARGE OF THE UNESCO CREDENTIALS STRUGGLE SINCE
IT WAS CLEAR THAT ESSARO WOULD NOT BE ARRIVING SOON.
HE HOPED THERE WOULD SOON BE INSTRUCTIONS FROM PHNOM
PENY SOLVING THE CHARGE PROBLEM (IN HIS FAVOR) AND
DIRECTING VANNSAK TO GET ABOUT THE UNESCO BUSINESS,
WITH SOME NEW FUNDS PROVIDED TO ENCOURAGE VANNSAK TO BE
MORE ACTIVE.

5. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT CABLE NAMING KHMER UNESCO
DELEGATION HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED, BUT HIERARCHY NOT
SET FORTH. UNOFFICIALLY KHMER HAVE LEARNED HANG THUN
HAK MAY BE IN CHARGE UNTIL ARRIVAL OF PAN SOTHI.

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